

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend claim 9 as indicated in the listing of claims.

Please cancel claims 12-26 and 29 without prejudice or disclaimer.

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously presented) A method of increasing cardiac contractile function in a subject comprising altering the expression of sorcin in the subject's heart by administering a viral vector encoding sorcin to the subject, wherein sorcin expression and contractile function are increased as compared to sorcin expression and contractile function prior to administration.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the vector is an adenoviral or adeno-associated virus vector.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the vector is administered directly into the heart.

6. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the heart is in a normal subject without heart disease.

7. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the heart has decreased contractile function prior to administration of the viral vector.

8. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the subject has diabetes mellitus.

9. (Currently amended) A method of treating ~~or preventing~~ heart failure, comprising

administering an adenoviral or adeno-associated virus vector encoding sorcin to a subject, wherein sorcin expression and contractile function are increased as compared to sorcin expression and contractile function prior to administration.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the vector is administered directly into the heart of the subject.

Claims 12-26. (Canceled)

27. (Original) A method for monitoring a therapeutic regimen for treating a subject having heart failure, comprising determining a change in sorcin expression during therapy.

28. (Original) The method of claim 27, wherein the therapy comprises the treatment of claim 9.

29. (Canceled)